



VETERINARY REPORT

To whom it may concern, the animal (Male dog - A35847) below was surrendered by HAWK animal welfare organisation based in Riverlands, Western Cape, to the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.

I, Dr R Ramnanan, was requested to perform a veterinary examination and report to assess the welfare of this animal.

ANIMAL DETAILS

Species: Canine
Breed: Crossbreed
Sex: Male intact
Age: Adult
Name: Unknown
Description: Tan
Weight: 23.55kg
Admission number: A35847

EXAMINATION FINDINGS

- Description of condition

All vital parameters were within normal limits.

Moderate attrition of all teeth down to the pulp and roots.

Severe primary hair loss, itching (pruritus) and secondary lichenification (thickening of the skin) and hyperpigmentation (darkening of the skin in response to a chronic inflammatory process), localised to the ventral abdomen, cranial neck region, periocular, dorsum of toes and ears. A foul smell is associated with skin lesions.

Severe stenosis (narrowing due to swelling), alopecia (hair loss) and scabbing of the ear pinna and ear canal.

Ear smears showed an abundance of rod-shaped and round bacteria as well as degenerate neutrophils which indicate severe bilateral bacterial otitis externa.

- Duration of condition

Chronic.

A chronic condition (also known as chronic disease or chronic illness) is a health condition or disease that is persistent or otherwise long-lasting in its effects or a disease that comes with time. The term chronic is often applied when the course of the disease lasts for more than three months.

- Cause of condition

In my experience, the severe skin and ear condition is caused by atopic dermatitis or cutaneous adverse food reaction (an immune dysregulation in response to environmental allergens or food-based allergens respectively) with a secondary pyoderma (severe yeast and/or bacterial infection due to compromise of the skin barrier).

Please note that atopic dermatitis and cutaneous adverse food reaction are indistinguishable on clinical exam and would require further diagnostic trials to differentiate.

The extremely poor condition of the teeth is also of major concern, as this animal cannot chew any food normally and any chewing of food would result in pain and discomfort.

- Prognosis

Fair, however in this animal's case this would require lifelong chronic medication and medical management would be essential to manage the skin, teeth and ears conditions appropriately. Further to this, a strict regular parasite (tick / flea) treatment regime and environmental disinfection would be essential.

COMMENTS

The overall temperament of the dog was stressed. The dog presented with a body condition score of 5/9 on the Nestle Purina body condition system with normal appetite, habitus and stool.

In my opinion, the animal is in a severe neglected state and is experiencing chronic discomfort and pain from both the chronic neglected skin condition and secondary infection, as well as the bilateral ear infections. The poor dental condition results in pain when chewing food.

All of the above also compromises the Animal Freedoms of **"Freedom from discomfort"** and **"Freedom from pain, injury or disease"**. (Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare)

Yours sincerely



Dr R Rivona Ramnanan (Aug 19, 2024 15:43 GMT+2)

Dr Rivona Ramnanan (BVSc) Veterinarian

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